

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

- providing a plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions, wherein a graphic symbolic expression includes any of:
  - a plurality of characters; and
  - a combination of characters and spaces that separate characters;
- receiving input that corresponds to only a portion of a particular graphic symbolic expression;
- using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the particular graphic symbolic expression.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein a graphic symbolic expression can further include any of:

- an individual character;
- a plurality of characters; and
- a combination of characters and spaces that separate characters.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein a character can comprise any of:

- a linguistic element;
- a non-linguistic element.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein a linguistic element can comprise any of:

- an alphanumeric character;
- an idiogram;
- a punctuation mark.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein providing a plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions comprises providing a plurality of non-user specific pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein providing a plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions comprises providing a plurality of user specific pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein providing a plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions comprises providing a plurality of:

- non-user specific pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions; and
- user specific pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving input comprises receiving input via at least one of:

- a full keyboard;
- an abbreviated keyboard;
- a handwriting recognizer; and
- a speech recognizer.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein either of the full keyboard and abbreviated keyboard can comprise any of:

- a mechanical keyboard; and
- a soft keyboard.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the particular graphic symbolic expression comprises using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a multi-word linguistic expression.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the particular graphic symbolic expression comprises using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a partial-sentence multi-word linguistic expression.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the particular graphic symbolic expression comprises using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a complete-sentence multi-word linguistic expression.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the particular graphic symbolic expression comprises using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a multi-sentence multi-word linguistic expression.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the particular graphic symbolic expression comprises using the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression to disambiguate amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby select a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a multi-word linguistic expression wherein at least one word of the multi-word linguistic expression comprises at least one of:

- an abbreviation;
- an ideogram;
- at least one numeric character; and
- a punctuation mark.

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15. A method for use with an abbreviated keyboard wherein at least some keys ambiguously represent multiple graphic symbolic characters, comprising:

- providing a plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions, wherein a graphic symbolic expression includes any of:

- a plurality of characters; and
- a combination of characters and spaces that separate characters;

and wherein the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions includes at least one user specific pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions;

- receiving input via the abbreviated keyboard that corresponds to only a portion of a user-intended particular graphic symbolic expression and that ambiguously corresponds to a plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions;

- using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the user-intended graphic symbolic expression.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein:

- a character can comprise any of:
- a linguistic element; and
  - a non-linguistic element;

and wherein a linguistic element can comprise any of:

- an alphanumeric character;
- an idiogram; and
- a punctuation mark.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the user-intended graphic symbolic expression comprises using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a multi-word linguistic expression.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the user-intended graphic symbolic expression comprises using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a partial-sentence multi-word linguistic expression.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the user-intended graphic symbolic expression comprises using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a complete-sentence multi-word linguistic expression.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the user-intended graphic symbolic expression comprises using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a multi-sentence multi-word linguistic expression.

21. The method of claim 15 wherein using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression as likely correlating to the user-intended graphic symbolic expression comprises using the input and the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions to thereby disambiguate amongst the plurality of possible graphic symbolic expressions to provide a selected graphic symbolic expression that comprises a multi-word linguistic expression wherein at least one word of the multi-word linguistic expression comprises at least one of:

- an abbreviation;
- an ideogram;
- at least one numeric character; and
- a punctuation mark.

22. An apparatus comprising:

- a graphic symbol entry device;
- at least one memory containing a plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions, wherein a graphic symbolic expression includes any of:
  - a plurality of characters; and
  - a combination of characters and spaces that separate characters;
- a disambiguator operably coupled to:
  - the graphic symbol entry device to facilitate receiving a portion of a particular graphic symbolic expression as entered by a user using the graphic symbol entry device; and
  - the at least one memory;

and having an output comprising a given one of the pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions as disambiguated from others of the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions as based upon the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the graphic symbol entry device comprises a keypad having keys, wherein at least some of the keys have a plurality of differing alphanumeric characters assigned thereto.

24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the apparatus comprises a cellular telephone.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 and further comprising a display having an input operably coupled to the output of the disambiguator.

26. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the disambiguator comprises disambiguation means for disambiguating amongst the plurality of pre-identified graphic symbolic expressions as a function, at least in part, of the portion of the particular graphic symbolic expression.

27. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the memory is disposed integral to the disambiguator.

28. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the memory is disposed remote to the disambiguator.